TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In The Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

Appomattox, Virginia

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Calvin H. Robinson — Editor and Publisher

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EDITORIALS

CONGRESSMAN ABBITT'S FIGHT FOR ALLOTMENTS

We wish to make the observation that Congressman W. M. Abbitt, of Appomattox, is displaying remarkable skill and resourcefulness in serving the agricultural interests of his constituents. His efforts in behalf of dark-tobacco allotments may or may not bear fruit, but they convince farmers that their representative is working for them. This newspaper parades no talents as to growing, marketing or chewing tobacco, but we do agree that there is a point beyond which it is not sound to drop in awarding allotments of tobacco agreage. We do not favor cutting any farmer's tobacco much below one full acre. And we understand there are scores of allotments of considerable less than one acre.

And the practice of putting Virginia dark tobacco in the same sales type as Kentucky and Tennessee leaf for which demand is not so strong, appears unfair and unsound. We thank Congressman Abbitt for taking up the cause of the Virginia dark tobacco growers. It has been tough to see demand for dark-tobacco fall off while output of bright tobacco has boomed. The dark-fired grower deserves a break! True, he received wonderful prices this year, and came out exceedingly well on his crop allotment. But the allotments have been reduced to the point where a serious price decline would be ruinous and any further allotment cuts will put him out of the business.

S. OTIS BLAND

Schuyler Otis Bland was the first Congressman for whom the editor of this newspaper ever voted. He was the able representative of the Virginia First District for 17 straight terms. This amazing record was built on a record of service and skill. He was that good. He had planned to retire after completion of his current term.

We have lived outside Mr. Bland's District for many years now, but recall his annual "tours of the district." He would send out notices well in advance and invite all who desired to see and talk with their Congressman to meet him, and he would list his route and schedule. So everyone saw their Congressman at least once a year.

He was a champion of our Merchant Marine, and always managed to get his bills passed with a minimum of opposition.

The passing of Mr. Bland leaves the Old Dominion with only one Congressman of any considerable seniority in Washington. That one is the 8th District's dignified and ultra conservative, Howard Smith, of the powerful Rules Committee. However the delegation lists several valuable men who will move up rapidly. Included in this group, we would name our own Watt Abbitt as the most likely to serve out a long and colorful career.

S. Otis Bland lived out a long and brilliant career. Virginia mourns its loss in his death.

SCHOOL FINANCING AND TAXES

A new era has been entered in financing public schools of Virginia, and in control of the system.

Outside of the cities, localities have been on a "slow-down strike" as to financing schools.

In favor of the rural counties is the fact that they finance transportation of pupils, an item the cities don't have to contend with, and which leaves the cities with more funds to spend on construction etc.

But even this item is not too impressive. Major costs of schools are instruction and the physical plants.

County tax systems are unable to support either of these two major items. And what's more, rural voters have not the slightest intention of supporting them.

We do not know how funds for the earliest schools in Virginia were raised. But buildings were of such quality the cost of the plant was negligible. Small rural schools could have been built by volunteer labor at slight tax cost.

Various funds and gifts built the next round of schools in the counties. And in the 1930's the PWA and other Federal sources of money made possible most of the Virginia schools now in use. And various funds have entered into equipping these buildings.

Money soon to be available for another round of school building, will come as a grant from the State.

The trend, definitely, is toward full State control of public education. The only way that trend can be reversed, and the only way it should be reversed, would be for the localities to start raising tax levels to finance the schools. And that is not likely to be done and we doubt if it can ever be attempted. What little we are doing even now at the local level is made possible largely by tax receipts the state hands out to the counties, such as ABC Board profits. You would have to change the entire distribution of taxable sources, to make possible a return of schools to local control, and that is not going to be done.

Within another decade, Virginia will be ready to do for the problem of education what was done a long time ago for the problem of roads. And we believe that it will work out just as well.

The hastening of full State control is made more imperative, because at the local level we have lost much of the will to do anything to meet our needs. For so many years we have stood around holding out our hands begging for grants and Federal and State hand-outs, that the will to solve problems at the local level has been forfeited. And this is serious. When things do come that could be solved locally by a little effort and good old American enterprise, we get the answer: Oh, No, Let Us Wait and the State Will Do That For Us! Yes, and often those who cry and weep bitterly about Free Enterprise and about New Deal Waste and Inefficiency, and the Evils of Unbalanced Budgets, are the very ones who start running when you suggest that a local problem be solved locally! They want a Hand-out, and if the State or Federal Governments do not come forward with the hand-out, they favor doing without!

Which raises this question: Why is it many of us are willing to pay great sums in hidden and state and federal taxes, passed on the consumer; yet we dislike to pay equivalent amounts levied and collected annually at the local level?

Human nature is a wonderful and awesome thing. And it is pretty much the same everywhere. There is no getting around the fact that is touch to pay taxes and we prefer to pay necessary taxes at the state or federal level. That is why state and federal governments can undertake projects which would be difficult to undertake locally.

Were the writer to get a tax bill once a year for all he pays in dabs when he buys gasoline, cigarettes, admission tickets, etc., etc., there is no doubt we would be fearfully alarmed and feel that single-handed we were carrying the burden of the entire government! But paying for as we do, we never miss it and think it is wonderful that the government can do so much and yet tax us so little!

LOOKING AT THE GOP

The sad plight of the Republican Party is brought to mind by recalling the early days of the party and how its leadership then contrasts so strongly with its leadership today. The generation of Abraham Lincoln saw great issues contending in this nation. Slavery and the authority of central government to handle national problems, were issues that bore at the very foundations of our country.

In that hour the young Republican party was organized, and it took a bold and positive stand. It opposed slavery and it favored the final authority of Federal Union. This was a bold challenge, and the people voted for Lincoln and the Republican party. And the party won not only at the ballot box, but on the field of battle.

How utterly in contrast is the modern version of the Republican party! It favors only negation. It has no program of positive action, it presents no constructive platform. Its leaders are largely timid men, and uncertain as to policy.

Picayune criticism of President's programs and reactionary opposition to legislation which is a stark necessity in America's world position, is not only ineffective, but dangerous. To continue the two-party system in America, it is essential that the Republican party be recreated. And that may be done. There are signs in that direction. "Grandpappy" may be losing control of the Republican party in Pennsylvania. Governor Duff will be succeeding in the primaries for the Senate nomination. In California, the Republican party is in more liberal hands, in fact it is up and down the Pacific area. And there is an element of young Republicans in Congress not at all content with isolation, standpattism and inaction. Considerable comment is read about internal factions of the Democratic party, but the Republican party is having the same problem.

This newspaper has said over and over again that it would be unfortunate were all the liberals to be grouped in one party and all the conservatives grouped in another. Two administrations by either such group would be most difficult and dangerous. And in like manner, it would be lamentable were the major parties to be splintered up into a maze of small parties of a sectional and pressure bloc composition. The nation can best be governed when it has two strong parties, each with a core of "center-minded" leaders capable of keeping government on an even keel. In that way reasonable continuity can be expected and serious reversals of policy with revolutionary and abrupt changes avoided.

National economy is a delicately balanced mechanism, and world affairs are equally as carefully pinpointed. A strengthened Republican party is desirable. But such utterances as the recent policy statement are not a step in that direction. The GOP needs realistic leadership. The Old Guard must retreat or be routed.

WHAT IS NOT SAID

(The Covington Virginian)

In his new play, "The Cocktail Party," T. S. Elliott has one of his characters say to another: "I learn a good deal by merely observing you, and let you talk as long as you please, and taking note of what you do not say."

The suggestion is staggering - the idea that there are people loose in the world who can learn things about us from what we do not say. Many of us, as mere humans, are aware that our tongues are inclined to wag a bit too much and that sometimes they discover a bit more about us than we intend that they should, by listening to what we say. But even the most foolish-tongued cherishes the illusion that he has a refuge in silence, when he has the wit to keep it.

As a matter of fact Elliott is probably factual enough: we are likely to be keen observers among us who learn "from what we do not say, as well as from lines escape our lips. It is well that we do not know for that there are such ones, they are. It would only spur control of the tongue a more racking task.

New crises faces United States the "cold war."

Chiang hopes for a future invasion of Chinese mainland.

Maneuvers show need of superiority for warfare in A

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LIQUID OR TABLETS - ANY FORM - THEY HELP

Evergreen

Evergreen, Feb. 21.- Mrs. T. E. Grande is visiting her children in Lynchburg and Richmond this week.

Mrs. Inez Dalton and Mrs. Margaret Hubbard.

Mrs. L. M. Southall and Mrs. H. L. Robinson, of Pamplin visited their brother, O. C. Paulette recently.

Mrs. Mabel W. Baker is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Collis Castleberry at New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

Mrs. C. J. Paulette spent the past week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Ferguson, of Forrest.

Mrs. Emma Toomas called in the home of Mrs. Sam Anderson recently.

Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Paulette and Mrs. Ryland Staples have been on the sick list the past week.

Mrs. Maude Deaner and Mrs. Jayne Kelly, of Lynchburg called in the home of T. E. LeGrande the last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Franklin and Mrs. Bessie Franklin called in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Paulette recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Farrar, of Amelia are visiting here.

Evergreen, Feb. 20.- Rev. McIntyre, of Amelia Court House, preached a fine sermon here at the Baptist Church Sunday night to a large congregation.

Little Karry White, of Lynchburg is visiting her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Staples.

Mrs. G. W. Glover went to Lynchburg Saturday to see a specialist.

She was accompanied home in the afternoon by her daughter, Mrs. Mary Sullivan.

The Rev. and Mrs. McIntyre and three children were Sunday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Randolf Woolridge and family.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Staples spent last Thursday night with their daughter and family, Mrs. Sam White, in Lynchburg.

Mrs. Green Garrett and Mrs. Dave Childers were Thursday afternoon guests of Mrs. Howard Glover.

Mrs. W. E. Warriner and daughter, Mrs. David Garrett, who have been ill the past week, we are glad to say are improving. Those calling to see them in the past week were Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Cralle, Mr. and Mrs. Ryland Staples and daughter, Mrs. Jeff Paulett and Mrs. Gwendolyn Paulett and George Franklin, Mr. and Mrs. Green Garrett, Mrs. David Childers, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Garrett, Mrs. Tibbs, Mrs. Earl Harris and daughter, Joan and son, Bob.

Miss Blannie Evans is ill with the flu.

J. L. Evans spent Sunday in Catawba, with his wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Jar womack are the happy parents of a baby boy, born Monday A. M. He is named James Horace.

Miss Jackie White was Sunday guest of Miss Bessie Ann Glover.

Mr. and Mrs. Julian White and daughter spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Grover Barr and family of Farmville.

Mrs. G. A. Chocklette is ill at this time.

A. B. Ferguson is spending this week with relatives in Lynchburg.

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Pamplin

Pamplin, R. F. D. 1., Feb. 21.- The Womans' Society of Christian Service of Piney Ridge, met at the Church Wednesday night at 7:30. The program, "Having the Bible is Not Enough," was presented by Mrs. W. J. Tolley.

Miss Virginia Richardson, of Farmville spent the week-end at her home here.

Mrs. Comer Baldwin is on the sick list this week.

Mrs. Louise Penely and little son, of Newport News and Mrs. Doris Price and daughter, of Richmond, were guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Tolley on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hancock and sons, of Farmville visited Mrs. Comer Baldwin and family this week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. William Price and children, of Sandston are spending some time with Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Price.

Mrs. Mary Sitemore spent Sunday in Farmville visiting Mrs. Ralph Arrington and Miss Minnie Sizemore.

Some of the young people will attend the Sub-District meeting at Appomattox on Tuesday night, February 21. Plans will be discussed at this meeting for a training school to be held at Appomattoxx during the 3rd week in April.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Arrington and little son, Clinton, visited friends in Richmond Sunday.

The Methodist Youth Fellowship, of Piney Ridge Church was entertained with a social, given by their counselor, Mrs. Annie Meadows, at her home on Thursday night, February 16. Those present were Nona and Bobbie Meadows, Paul, Ruth, Shirley and Kenneth Arrington, Hannah, Mark and Luke Hipps, Margaret, Jr. Randolf, Henry and Bennet Richardson, Phil Hamlin, Shelby Williams, Yocwilda and Billy Webber, Roy, Nancy and Harold Tolley. Carl and Billy Ferguson, and Rev. T. L. Simpson, who presided over a short business session of the Youth Council prior to the social hour. Games, contests and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Hixburg

Hixburg, Feb. 20.- The regular meeting of the B. T. U. was held Sunday night. Had an interesting program.

Mr. and Mrs. Agee Glover and sons, Marvin, Carl and Fred, and Enoch Roberts spent several days with their sister, Mrs. Corn Anderson, at Chilhowie, Va. last week. They saw many old friends and relatives, among them two uncles 80 years old. Enoch Roberts lived in this section for many years and he taught school there for 15 years.

Miss Jessie Carson spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Carson. She called at the home of J. R. Marshall in the P. M.

Wilson Hix was also a caller in this home.

Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Singleton spent Friday P. M. with his first cousin, J. R. Marshall.

Mrs. B. G. Grinstead spent Friday P. M. in Appomattox. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Goin were also in town.

The friends of Witt Goin extend sympathy in the death of his mother, Mrs. Mary Goin, Feb. 18. Many from the neighborhood attended the funeral services at Prospect Methodist Church Monday at 3 P. M.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Allen, Lynchburg, owners of "Ford Farm," spent some time down there last week. They also called at Hixburg.

U. S. breaks off diplomatic ties with Bulgaria.

Showdown expected soon in the coal strike.

Churchill says he opposes coalition rule.

This Is Novel Joke Twist In Radio Give-Away History

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO. — There is a new trend in "practical joking" that's giving radio give-away programs a bad jolt.

A local housewife reported that she received a phone call purportedly from a radio station. An unidentified voice offered her $100 for the best suggestion on "how to tame your wife." She said she quickly replied, "Why, spanking, of course."

The voice then repeated the promise of $100 if she would have her husband spank her loud enough to be heard over the phone. Eager to win the $100, she called in a neighbor to administer the spanking because her husband wasn't home.

When the spanked housewife called the radio station to arrange to collect the $100 prize, she was told the whole thing must have been a hoax, as the station hadn't offered any such prize.

Vera

Vera, Feb. 22.- Mr. and Mrs. Norval Bagley spent Sunday evening with Mr. Jim and Miss Annie Carnefix.

Robert Chernault, of Washington, D. C., spent Saturday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Chernault.

Russell Chernault and son, Gene, celebrated their birthdays Sunday. The following were dinner guests: Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Chernault and family; Mrs. G. W. Craddock and daughter, Joyce Lee. Calling in the afternoon were: Mrs. T. H. Robertson, Mrs. Lloyd Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Berkley Garrett and daughter, Mrs. Flood Harris and family, Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Harvey and daughters, Harriett and Maxie.

Mr. and Mrs. Clem O'Brien were guests Saturday night of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Chernault.

William and Mary barely wins basketball game from Roanoke College, 53 to 50.

South Carolina in Congress map fight on FEPC bill.

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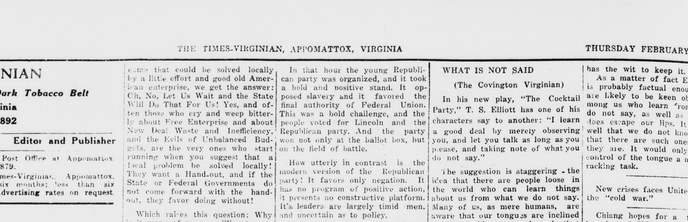

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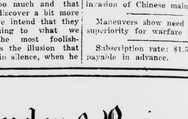

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